



April 27, 2015

Island Insight

This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce. This document is also available on the Garrison Internet page under "Information" and on the installation website at www.usagria.army.mil under "News" and then "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: <https://home.ria.army.mil/sites/ii/ii.cfm>

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ASC Vietnam Vet Shares Experience with High School Students

Pleasant Valley High School students received a presentation about the Vietnam War from someone with firsthand experience, offering information and a perspective you won't find in the average history book. Bob Matthys, associate director of Small Business Programs, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, visited PVHS, April 22, to talk about his experience as a Marine in Vietnam. Matthys enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967 and served through 1970. He was sent to Vietnam in January 1968, and fought as a rifleman, company radio operator, squad leader, and platoon sergeant until his return home in February of 1969. He was stationed near Kason during that time, and received two combat promotions. "I try to show them the Soldier experience from the everyday living aspect of the combat zone," he said. "I don't want to go into the gore. I want them to think about the normal things in their lives that they may take for granted." Matthys spoke to Rusty VanWetzinga's ninth-grade history class. ([More](#))



Upcoming Dates

- May 2:** RIA MWR Army 10-miler Qualifying Run, RIA Sports Complex, 6:30 a.m.
- May 2:** Pretty In Pink Doll Party, Quarters One, 1 p.m.
- May 5-7:** DA Photos, Bldg. 56 Basement, 7:20 a.m.
- May 5:** Overseas Orientation Briefing, ACS Bldg. 110, 9:30 a.m.
- May 8:** Cinco de Mayo Golf Scramble, Arsenal Island Golf Course, 9 a.m.
- May 8:** Military Spouse Appreciation Day, ACS/USO, Bldg. 110, 10 a.m.
- May 8:** Advanced Résumé Class, Bldg. 103, Baylor Conf. Rm, 1:30 p.m.
- May 10:** Mother's Day Brunch Buffet, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 10:30 a.m.
- May 12:** Time Management Training Class, Bldg. 56, Rm. 122, 10:30 a.m.
- May 12:** National Day of Prayer Luncheon, Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, 11:30 a.m.
- May 12:** BRC2 Motorcycle Riding Course, Motorcycle Training Course, 7:30 a.m.
- May 15:** Hearts Apart Support Group, ACS Bldg. 110, 10 a.m.
- May 15:** Army Soldier Show, Adler Theatre, 7 p.m.
- May 16:** America's Kids Run, Memorial Field, 9 a.m.
- May 19:** Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower, Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, 10 a.m.
- June 11:** St. Ambrose University Lunch and Learn, Bldg. 56, Room 116, 11 a.m.

RI Arsenal to Enhance Security

This summer, the Rock Island Arsenal plans to put in place new security measures that will require visitors to submit to background checks. Army officials say they want to continue to have people visit the island, one of the most historic parts of the Quad-Cities that hosts many public events. Still, they say that Defense Department security standards are requiring enhanced screening at all installations, particularly in light of the 2013 shooting at the Washington Navy Yard that left 12 people dead. "We want the community to feel like it's their post as well," Maj. Gen. Kevin O'Connell, the senior mission commander on the island, told Quad-City Times editors and reporters this week. But he added, "We've got to balance that with force protection." The Arsenal Garrison, headed by Col. Elmer Speights Jr., is implementing the new measures. ([More](#))



House Panel Includes Arsenal Language in Defense Bill

A U.S. House committee has included language in a defense policy bill that would require the Defense Department to tell Congress about equipment being purchased from foreign companies that could be manufactured at places such as the Rock Island Arsenal. The language was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2016, which the House Armed Services Committee was drafting Wednesday, according to Reps. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, and Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat and member of the committee. ([More](#))

Silver Star Recipient Shares Tales of Heroism with First Army Soldiers

A Rock Island, Illinois, native who received three Silver Stars for heroism in the Vietnam War enthralled First Army leaders here Monday with his firsthand account of a five-day firefight in the Vietnam jungle. "I've never been so scared in my life," said William L. Albracht, author of "Abandoned in Hell: The Fight for Vietnam's Firebase Kate". "But, once I realized I was going to die, I didn't have that fear." Albracht spoke during a professional development session that was part of the First Army Commanders Conference being held this week at the unit's headquarters. First Army leaders participating in the session read Albracht's book before his presentation. ([More](#))



Service Ditches 'Army Strong' For New Branding Strategy

Can you sum up your service, your commitment, your strength in a marketing slogan, five words or less, encapsulating everything the Army has and ever hopes to stand for? Don't sweat it. Army officials didn't think so, either. The service's latest 60-second commercial debuted Monday, featuring black-and-white photos over stirring narration and music, offering glimpses of many aspects of service and sacrifice, and extolling the virtues of joining "the Army team." ([More](#))

Joint Munitions Command Hosts Army Ammo Summit, Members Sign Charter

Senior leaders from the Joint Munitions Command, Army Materiel Command, Ordnance Corps and top brass from the Department of Army's logistics field met here, April 16, during an Army Ammunition Summit to discuss pertinent issues among key stakeholders. Brig. Gen. John C. Haley, Commandant and Chief of Ordnance, Fort Lee, Virginia; Michael Cervone, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of the Army G4 office, Washington D.C.; and Patricia Huber, Joint Munitions Command, deputy to the commander, Rock Island, Illinois, served as the Ammo Summit hosts. "I am looking for some frank and open discussions today concerning



issues within the entire ammo enterprise," said Haley. "This summit provides that forum to discuss issues and recommendations." ([More](#))

First Army General, Laci Green, Team Up To Educate On Sexual Assault, Rape Prevention at University

Maj. Gen. Paul M. Benenati, First Army deputy commanding general for support, educated students about sexual assault at the Y Factor Campus and Community Summit on Sexual Assault Prevention at the University of Iowa here on April 22. "We are trying to get after the problem," said Benenati. "We have a long way to go. We have got to find a way to change the culture. This is only successful if we take a system-wide approach." Between 150-250 University of Iowa students, ROTC cadets, faculty and staff attended the collaborative all-day National Sexual Assault Awareness Month event, which included small breakout sessions to educate and encourage more conversation about this sensitive topic. ([More](#))



Holocaust Survivor Discusses 'Signposts on the Road to Auschwitz' At RIA

In 1944, 14-year-old Irving Roth arrived at Auschwitz with several members of his family, surrounded by dark buildings, Nazi guards with dogs, and chimneys belching flames. He was immediately separated from much of his family, watching in horror as they were marched into "group showers" where they were gassed to death then incinerated. Roth, now the director of the Holocaust Resource Center, Temple Judea of Manhasset, New York, survived the Holocaust nightmare. More than 70 years later, he tells his story in the hopes of educating the world about what he feels leads to Holocaust-like atrocities, and how to avoid allowing it to happen again. ([More](#))



Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9 "Army Civilians - Key to Mission Success"

For nearly 240 years, Army Civilian employees have been an integral part of enhancing and sustaining the readiness of America's Army in times of war and peace. The Army team appreciates our civilian workforce for their daily support to Soldiers, their Families and our Nation. Our civilian employees provide mission-essential capabilities, stability, continuity and leadership, all which are vital to our success. It is important that we extend our appreciation for their tremendous contributions during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year. We take great pride in the professionalism of our total Army, both military and civilian personnel. It is incumbent upon the Army's senior leaders to continue to develop and maximize the potential of the Army Civilian Corps so that they remain a highly motivated workforce. Collaboration between employees, managers and the Army as an enterprise is essential to making this happen. For this reason, we are renewing our emphasis on improving the dialogue among our senior leaders, supervisors and our Army Civilian employees. ([Letter](#))



10 Things to Know Around the DoD In May

1. Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 "to encourage the nation to publicly demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by our service members," according to the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program. The declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace." ([More](#))



Civilian Education System

The Army is redesigning its four-level Civilian Education System in order to professionalize the Army Civilian Corps in accordance with the Civilian Workforce Transformation initiative. The CES is a continuum of leader development that begins with the newly-hired Army professional and provides development opportunities throughout the professional's career. Completing CES courses is recommended prior to selection for higher levels of employment and is required prior to attending advanced educational opportunities. Current and future initiatives include both enhanced opportunities for civilians as well as training for military leaders to build uniform/civilian teams. For example, starting in 2016, the Army will select civilians to attend the Command and General Staff Officer Course. Other initiatives include a presentation at the Army's School of Command Preparation Brigade Commander/Command Sergeants Major Course, which will also be offered as an elective at the CGSOC. ([More](#))

Modern Woodmen's Join Hands Day Project Helps Arsenal youth center

This Saturday, May 2, members of the Modern Woodmen of America home office chapter and their families will join local Modern Woodmen youth service club members and members of the US Army Child, Youth & School Services (CYSS) Center on the Rock Island Arsenal to help with upkeep of the CYSS Center. Volunteers will be raking leaves, sanitizing toys, cleaning playground equipment and maintaining the grounds at the center between 8 a.m. and noon. The project supports Join Hands Day, a national day of service sponsored by Modern Woodmen and other fraternal benefit societies. ([More](#))

Café Cashier Trial

Dear valued Company Kitchen/Treat America customer, effective April 20, for a trial period of 30 business days, the Bldg. 60 café will offer a cashier station. This trial will end **May 29**. The cashier station will be available for breakfast 7-9 a.m., and for lunch 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. The cashier station process will entail the following: • Customers will still have to pay for their meals first; • You will come to the station; • The cashier will ring up your order; • You will pay and receive any change; • Your order will then be processed, your ticket will print at the proper station; • You receive your food; • There will still be two self-service kiosks available for use in Bldg. 60's café. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming changes please feel free to contact me at rockisland60@tafoodservices.com. Thank you for your continued patronage.
– Camellia Austin, Rock Island Arsenal Manager, Treat America Food Services



Treat America
FOOD SERVICES

Corps to Host Boating Safety Classes

Boating can be a fun and entertaining summer activity but one close call on the water can end it all. To help get ready for the upcoming boating season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project will be offering free boating safety education classes at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. Classes will be offered **May 2**. Only one eight-hour class is required to complete certification. Pre-registration is required, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the park rangers at (309) 794-5338.



Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the room outside the Lock and Dam Lounge (in Bldg. 60), on **Friday, May 8 & 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to e-mail SHoegerl@mvrbc.com with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at 563-359-5401, ext. 119. There will also be a **3rd Shift** blood drives in the Bldg. 211 Cafeteria on Thursday nights, **May 22 & 29**. These drives begin at 2:15 am. Donors should see their Supervisors to sign up. **Also, a slight change in that every donor must present photo ID or a blood donor card to be eligible to donate blood. Arsenal badges are acceptable.**



*Mother's Day is right around the corner... we're excited to announce a special promotion that begins Friday, **May 1**, called "Make Your Momma Proud"! Donating lifesaving blood and blood products is a pretty great way to make your momma proud, right? All presenting donors **May 1-16** will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 spa gift cards – they make great Mother's Day gifts; make your momma proud.*

The Army encourages its employees to volunteer as candidates for any of the variety of medical donor programs, including blood, bone marrow, and organ donor/transplant programs. For additional information [click here](#).

VIOS Schedule for May and June

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal on **May 5, 6, 7** and **June 9, 10, 11**. Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7:20 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" on the [VIOS site](#) for more information. Walk-in appointments are not available. Photographs will be taken at the Photo Studio (Bldg. 56, basement, by elevator). Priority is: 1. Active duty Soldier's DA photos; 2. Official government passport photos; 3. Official command photos; 4. DA photos for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers (not on active duty). The 8"x10" head and shoulders - command photos will be printed and available digitally. Additional prints can be ordered in [VIOS](#). To obtain an official government passport photo: 1. Schedule a passport photo appointment at the [RIA VIOS website](#). 2. Go to transportation to obtain a printed DA Form 3903, Multi-Media/Visual Information Work Order, signed by the passport agent in Block 14. 3. Present that DA Form 3903 to the photographer before the passport photo is taken. You will receive two 2" x 2" passport photos. All scheduled dates can be found on the [RIA VIOS website](#) FAQ.

Davenport Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps 8th Annual "Blue Devil" Raider Challenge

The Davenport Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is hosting the 8th Annual "Blue Devil" Raider Challenge, at Naval Operations Support Center Rock Island, Bldg. 218, on Saturday, **May 2**. High Schools from Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin, are participating in the challenge. The challenge will start approximately 7 a.m. with the award ceremony at 3 p.m. The challenge is five major events: Army PT Test, Rope Bridge, Raider Challenge Course, Surprise event and 10K road march. Come out and support your local Army JROTC! For additional information contact 563-323-9900, x113; or moralezj@davenport.k12.ia.us.



National Day of Prayer Luncheon

The ASC Chaplains Office invites you to attend the RIA Unit Ministry Team-sponsored National Day of Prayer Luncheon on Tuesday, **May 12**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., in Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall. Please contact the [unit POCs listed on the flyer](#) for tickets to this event.

RIA Ladies Golf League

Looking for evenings of fun and fellowship? If so, the RIA Ladies Golf League is the place. The league begins **May 12** and ends **Aug. 25**. The league plays on Tuesdays at Saukie Golf Course and is for all levels of play. Kickoff meeting will be **April 14**. If interested please attend kickoff meeting or contact [Jeanine Blevins](#) at 563-324-3465 or [Brenda Hanes](#) at 309-794-0115 for further information.

Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club Golf Tournament Scholarship

Are you an avid golfer or just play for fun or exercise? Come join us Tuesday, **June 2**, at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, for the RIAWC Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. You can join in as an individual or as a team. Cost is \$125 per person or \$500 as a team. Registration will be 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; shotgun start at 1 p.m.; banquet dinner 6-8 p.m. What a way to get out and have some fun. If you are interested in participating it is not too late to sign up. Thanks for your continued and dedicated support in assisting our youth here in the Rock Island Arsenal Community. ([Flyer](#))

AMC Band Coming to the Quad-City Area

Save the date... Rock Island Arsenal invites you to enjoy a free jazz concert, performed by the Army Material Command Band, at LeClaire Park in Davenport on **June 11**, 6-7:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. The AMC Band proudly serves the Soldiers and civilians of the U.S. Army Materiel Command stationed at more than 140 locations worldwide. The band, with its eight music performance teams, travels extensively throughout the country and overseas supporting 30 installations, 26 major tenants, seven Army field support brigades, 11 subordinate commands, and four separate reporting activities within the AMC enterprise. Since November 2003, the band has deployed in support of AMC Soldiers and civilians forward deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The AMC band has performed in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates. The band is under the purview of the AMC chief of staff.



Mark Your Calendars - Army Birthday Fun Run & Cake Cutting

The Army turns 240 years old this year. Come help us celebrate **June 12** by participating in the 5k fun run and later join us for the cake cutting ceremony. The AMC Band will perform and they always impress so don't miss out on this opportunity to hear these talented Soldiers perform. To take part in the run, meet in front of Quarters One at 6 a.m., the race will start at 6:30 a.m. after reveille and all (military, civilian, family members, general public, etc.) are invited to participate. Call 309-782-6787 for more info. There will be a cake cutting ceremony the same day held in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, at 11 a.m. ([Flyer](#))



240th Army Birthday Ball

The Rock Island Arsenal and Quad-City area military community will celebrate the 240th Army Birthday Ball on Saturday, **June 13**, starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Quad Cities Waterfront Convention Center, 2021 State Street, in Bettendorf. Cost per Person is \$45 per person (E-7/GS-8/WG-6/NF3 and above); and \$38 per person (E-6/GS-7/WG-5/NF2 and below). Dress... Military: Dress Mess/Army Service Uniform with white shirt and bow tie; Civilian: Tuxedo or dark suit. Please RSVP by **May 18** to ASC Protocol at 309-782-2410. The event will include: a social hour/receiving line; the National Anthem and posting of the Colors; streamer ceremony; champagne toasts; dinner; guest speaker – Sgt. Gary Beikirch, Medal of Honor recipient; Retiring of the Colors; and Dancing. Child care will be offered on-post in a CYSS facility from 5-11 p.m. Children will be provided a heavy snack mid-way through the night. Please feed your child dinner before arriving. RSVPs for childcare are due by **May 29**. Children must be registered with CYSS. Call 782-6793 to make reservations.



RIA AUSA Annual Golf Outing - Save the Date

Save the Date! RIA AUSA will hold its annual golf outing and fundraiser on Friday, **July 17**. Sponsorship and entry forms will be forthcoming soon. Visit www.ria-ausa.org to keep posted about chapter activities. ([Flyer](#))

Arsenal Island Employee Local Discounts

The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees — **New Life Chiropractic Clinic:** All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off its services located at 2500 18th Street in Bettendorf. **Quad-City Area Chick-fil-A:** All local military personnel and immediate family may show their government issued ID and receive a free Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwich any Monday in April 2015 from 5-7 p.m. at any Quad-City area Chick-fil-A location. **Chocolate Manor:** All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off their total purchase on any of our award winning homemade chocolates at 110 E. 2nd St., Davenport, just show your ID. **Roosters Sports Bar and Grill:** All military and civilian's get 10 percent off their bill. Come head down for lunch at 2130 3rd St., Rock Island, new specials daily. **Peachwave Frozen Yogurt:** Peachwave, 3431 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, offers a 10 percent discount every day to all military and veterans. *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*

Arsenal Traffic/Construction



Fort Armstrong Avenue Construction

Rock Island Arsenal is performing road work on the intersection of Fort Armstrong Avenue and Rock Island Drive. This work has resulted in a full vehicle closure of the Arsenal's Rock Island Gate and Rock Island Viaduct, as well as restricting vehicles crossing the Government Bridge to "Installation-only" traffic. Signs and barricades are posted to warn and direct traffic. The American Discovery Trail will remain open. At that time the Rock Island Gate will be closed and the Davenport Gate will be opened 24/7 for ingress and egress to Rock Island Arsenal. This will continue until construction work is completed, currently anticipated to be in **late May or early June**. Upon project completion, the Rock Island Gate will reopen for normal operations.

Parking Lot 2E and Buffington Street Closures

Parking Lot 2E, located North of Bldg. 220, and access to Flagler St. from Rodman Ave. are planned to be closed for repair beginning April 15 for about eight weeks. Pedestrian access to the JMTC facilities through the turnstiles and gates in this work area will also be closed. Immediately following the parking lot completion, Buffington St., from Rodman Ave. to Parking Lot 3H (parking lot west of Bldg. 350) will be closed for repair. Work on Buffington St. is anticipated to last about six weeks. Western traffic is encouraged to use North Ave. and Whittemore St. Eastern traffic is encouraged to use North Ave. and Gillespie St. Short duration, one lane closures on Rodman Ave. may occur near Buffington St. during this work time. Signs and barricades will be used to warn traffic and close areas during repair.

Parking Closure Near Bldg. 64

Effective **March 1** through Wednesday, **July 1**, the Directorate of Public Works will begin replacing the roof on Bldg. 64. Parking along the east side of the street (2nd Street) will be closed **March 1 through May 8**. Parking along the west side of the street (3rd street) will be closed **April 17 through July 1**. During these closures fencing, barricades, and signage will be positioned, as required. Timeframes may be extended depending on weather related issues.

Rock Island Viaduct Sidewalk Closed to Pedestrians

"Sidewalk Closed" signs have been erected at either end of the Rock Island Viaduct sidewalk. These signs were placed because of the tripping hazard that the condition of the sidewalk presents. Attached illustration indicates the suggested alternative route (STR276 American Discovery Trail and Pedestrian Bridge) during the closure.

Building/Space Closures



CAC/ID Office Move

The Garrison CAC/ID office is relocating from Bldg. 23 to Bldg. 102, 1st Floor, Northeast corner. The physical move is currently scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, **May 8**. No appointments or walk-ins will be taken after 9:30 a.m. on that day. The CAC/ID Office is scheduled to reopen at the new location on Monday, **May 11**, at 10 a.m. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, **May 12**. Until the completion of the lot 1A parking lot (in front of Bldg. 102), there will be two dedicated handicapped spaces for CAC/ID patrons in lot 1B (in front of buildings 103/104). The two reserved spaces will be Space 8 and 10. CAC/ID office hours, phone numbers, and appointment system will remain the same at the new location.

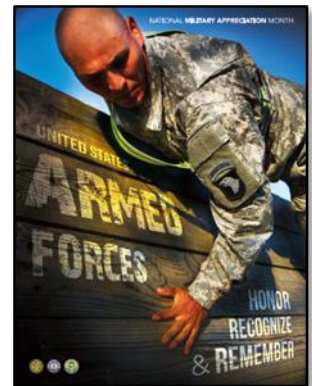
Be Right Back

Active Duty/Reserve Zone



May is National Military Appreciation Month

Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to encourage the nation to publicly demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by the service members. The declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace. National Military Appreciation Month reminds all of the sacrifices service members and their families make to protect freedom. Through the years, the Soldiers, families and civilians have never wavered in their support and patriotism, despite the many challenges they have faced. During the month of May, all commands, installations, and units are encouraged to support local engagements designed to draw public attention and illustrate public support and appreciation and thanks to the Army family. The Army will continue to honor Soldiers, family members, civilians and veterans. The Army is the strength of our nation - the strength of our Army is our Soldiers and civilians. The strength of our Soldiers and civilians is the Army family, and the veterans who continue to support the force.



Military Spouse Appreciation Day

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day, we celebrate military spouses' contributions to keeping our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. They are the silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation and they serve our country just like their loved ones. Join us Friday, **May 8**, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the ACS/USO in Bldg. 110, for an open house, free refreshments, and to say

thanks to those who serve alongside their military husbands and wives. Call 309-782-0829 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower hosted by the Iowa State Chapter, Mississippi Valley Division March of Dimes. The event will take place **May 19**, 10 a.m. – Noon, at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. This baby shower is for all expecting Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve with military ID card holder spouses. To RSVP for the event, contact Deena at 563-323-6378. Space is Limited.



Bix 7 Road Race Waves Entry Fee

The [Bix 7 Road Race](#), **July 27**, in Downtown Davenport, again this year is honored to be able to wave entry fees for active duty military, guard and Reserve. Complete the [printable entry form](#), enter your military ID number where indicated and mail your entry to us. You must pick up your packet in person at the Bix 7 Expo and show your military ID. Last year several hundred military, guard and reserve participated. Additionally, last year the Bix committee was able to establish two distinctive viewing areas for veterans. The starting line saw several honor flight participants, while the top of Brady and Kirkwood had a large contingent representing the Vietnam veterans. The 41st Anniversary is shaping up to be another great event and we're excited to show our continued appreciation to the military. ([Entry Form](#))

Putnam Museum is a Blue Star Member Institution

The Putnam is now one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense. Any active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve, and up to five family members, receive free admission to the Museum and Science Center **Memorial Day through Labor Day**. "We are honored and excited to be able to bring this program

to our Quad Cities Military families," said President and CEO Kim Findlay. "Through our participation in the Blue Star Museums program, we are able to show our continued support for all our active military and thank them for their hard work and sacrifices." Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.



Military 4-H Scrapbooking SPIN Club

Explore, Engage, Innovate... the world of scrapbooking. Take photos you have and create a scrapbook that will last a lifetime. Each month youth will learn a new scrapbooking technique and create a page. Snacks will be at each meeting. Eligibility includes military youth, ages 12-18. This program will meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month, **Feb. 18 to Dec. 16**, 5:30-7 p.m., in the Cassion Room, in Bldg. 60. Cost includes a supply fee of \$20; non-4-H members add a \$20 program fee (fee waivers available upon request). [Register online today!](#) Or for more information call the University of Illinois Extension, Rock Island County 4-H Office at 309-756-9978.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate call 309-756-9978 at least two weeks in advance.

Safety Spotlight



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG



Army to Observe Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

The Army will continue its annual observance of national Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month this May, giving leaders and Soldiers an extended opportunity to prepare for the riding season ahead. The month, sponsored each year by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, comes at a good time for the Army -- motorcycle fatalities were down 15 percent at the end of fiscal 2014 from the previous year and fell even further during the first two quarters of 2015. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Farnsworth, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, said leaders can use this year's observance to ward off complacency among their Soldier riders. "We're obviously proud of the work our Soldiers are doing to reduce motorcycle losses," he said. "But we don't want to see them scale back their efforts just because everything is going well. This progress is because leaders, mentors and riders were vigilant, and that needs to continue." Lt. Col. Joseph Harvey, director of the USACRC's Driving Directorate, said many leaders throughout the Army cannot afford to wait for May to begin their motorcycle safety initiatives. "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month happens just as spring is transitioning to summer in much of the continental United States," he said. "While that might be ideal timing for leaders at northern or western installations, riders in southern or desert locations have been riding for months now, if not all year. ([More](#))

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus

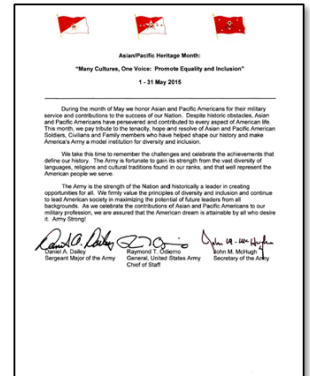


Annual Employee Self-Identification of Disability, Race and Ethnicity

Accurate data is significant to ensuring appropriate planning, resourcing, monitoring, and statistical reporting of Equal Employment Opportunity programs. The Garrison EEO Office requests and encourages employees to access the automated tool MyBiz, <https://compo.dcpds.cpmc.osd.mil>, and review personal data to ensure its accuracy. Employee action by **June 1** is requested. Employees may update disability, ethnicity, and race information in MyBiz. Employee step-by-step instructions for viewing and updating these data elements are attached. Furnishing of disability, ethnicity, and race information is voluntary and does not impact your employment. Self-identification is used for statistical purposes only. The information entered in MyBiz is covered by the Privacy Act of 1974. Employees may direct questions regarding the collection and reporting of disability, race, and ethnicity to the Garrison EEO Office at 309-782-1488 or DSN 793-1488.

Asian/Pacific Heritage Month: "Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion" May 1-31, 2015

During the month of May we honor Asian and Pacific Americans for their military service and contributions to the success of our Nation. Despite historic obstacles, Asian and Pacific Americans have persevered and contributed to every aspect of American life. This month, we pay tribute to the tenacity, hope and resolve of Asian and Pacific American Soldiers, civilians and Family members who have helped shape our history and make America's Army a model institution for diversity and inclusion. We take this time to remember the challenges and celebrate the achievements that define our history. The Army is fortunate to gain its strength from the vast diversity of languages, religions and cultural traditions found in our ranks, and that well represent the American people we serve. The Army is the strength of the Nation and historically a leader in creating opportunities for all. We firmly value the principles of diversity and inclusion and continue to lead American society in maximizing the potential of future leaders from all backgrounds. As we celebrate the contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans to our military profession, we are assured that the American dream is attainable by all who desire it. Army Strong!



Morale, Welfare & Recreation



Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all MWR programs.

Cinco de Mayo Golf Scramble

Get your foursome together and get signed up for our annual spring golf outing Friday, **May 8**, at 9 a.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Course. Cinco de Mayo is the theme for this year's four-person preferred shot scramble. Call 309-793-1604 for more info and to register your team. ([Flyer](#))

Mother's Day Brunch Buffet

Treat mom to a delicious all-you-can-eat brunch buffet Sunday, **May 10**, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the beautiful and historic Arsenal Island Clubhouse. Cost is \$22.95/adult and \$9.95/child (12 & under). RSVP by **May 7** by calling 309-782-4372. ([Flyer](#))

2015 U.S. Army Soldier Show

It's Army entertainment like you've never experienced before. The Soldier Show is a live Broadway-style variety performance featuring our best talent. It's singing, it's dancing and it's amazing! The Soldier Show returns to the Quad Cities for a one-night only performance on Friday, **May 15**, at 7 p.m., in the Adler Theatre. This free show is open to the general public and tickets can be picked up at the following locations on-post:

- Leisure Travel Office (Bldg. 333)
- Fitness Center (Bldg. 67)
- Army Community Service (Bldg. 110)
- MWR Main Office (Bldg. 110)
- ASC Protocol Office (Bldg. 390)

Tickets can also be picked up off-post at the Adler Box Office. ([Flyer](#))

America's Kids Run

Mark your calendars Saturday, **May 16**, at 9 a.m., at Memorial Field, for the 2015 America's Armed Forces Kids Run. This is open to the public, so please be sure to share this event with all your friends and family. We will have a variety of races for children ages 3-13 years old.

- 100 yard dash 3-4 year olds
- 1/2 mile run 5-6 year olds
- 1 mile run 7-8 year olds
- 2 mile run for 9-13 year olds

These are all for fun, and non-competitive. Register by **April 30** for \$8/child to be guaranteed a t-shirt and finishers medal. Price increases to \$10 on **May 1**. The races will begin at 9 a.m. We will also have a family fun zone with lots of activities after the races. Register at:

<http://getmeregistered.com/RIAAmericaKidsRun> or call 309-782-0511 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Online Tee Times Now Available at the Arsenal Island Golf Course

Spring and golf season are here and getting on the tee box just got easier. We're happy to announce that you can now book tee times for the golf course through our website. Just point your browser to: <http://tinyurl.com/AIGC-TeeTimes> and book your tee time up to seven days in advance. Call the pro shop at 309-793-1604 for more info or to make your tee time over the phone.

Entire Month of April, Oil Change Special at the Auto Skills Shop

April is Spring Car Care Month, a good time to kick the tires and check the fluids after a long cold winter and in anticipation of summer driving conditions. All month long you can get a full service standard oil change (includes up to five quarts of oil, oil filter and 25 point inspection) for just \$21, or a full service Mobil 1™ synthetic oil change for \$51 (includes up to six quarts of Mobil 1™ oil, oil filter and 25 point inspection). Call 309-782-8631 to schedule an appointment or for more info. ([Flyer](#))



MWR Leisure Travel Office



Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bldg. 333. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., 309-782-5890. ([email](#)) ([website](#))

Pretty In Pink Doll Party

This is our first Pretty In Pink Doll Party. The party will take place at Historical Quarters One. Finger food and dessert buffet, free photo with your favorite doll, movie with free popcorn and other activities. Cost is \$25 per person. Limited seating. For more details contact the Leisure Travel Office. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Saturday, May 2**

Time: **1-3 p.m.**

Chuggington Live! The Great Rescue Adventure at the Adler Theatre

The Great Rescue Adventure the trainees are on their first day of advanced training, and are eager to impress their mentors by mastering new roles that test their courage, speed, and determination.

Limited discount seats available for \$33.50. Section B, Row G, Seats 1-10.

Date: **Tuesday, May 12**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Professional Bull Riders

Coming to the iWireless Center - The PBR's BlueDEF Velocity Tour is a collaboration between PBR and AEG, the leading sports, entertainment and venue operator in the world, which offers established and up-and-coming bull riders the opportunity to gain the valuable points needed to qualify for the PBR's elite Built Ford Tough Series. Leisure Travel has limited discount seats until **June 1**. Section 116 Rows 9 & 10 are \$49, Section 105 Rows 7 & 8 are \$29.

Date: **Saturday, June 13**

Time: **7 p.m.**

The Sound of Music

This Tony Award winner for Best Musical provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in theatre. Enjoy such timeless classics as "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things," "Climb Every Mountain," and more. Leisure Travel has discounted seats available until **June 12** for \$46.

Date: **Saturday, June 27**

Time: **5:45-9 p.m.**

Cubs vs. Cardinals Bus Trip

MWR Leisure Travel has a Cubs vs. Cardinals bus trip scheduled. Cost will be \$99 per person to include transportation and ticket to game. Seats are located in Upper Deck Box Outfield. Departing from RIA at 6 a.m. from the COL Davenport Pavilion. Limited alcohol permitted on chartered bus. Coolers must fit under the seats and not block the aisle. No glass bottles. No smoking permitted on motor coach. Estimated return time will be 8 p.m. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Saturday, Sept. 19**

Time: **12:05 p.m.**

2015 Adventureland Tickets

Leisure Travel has discounted 2015 admission tickets on sale. Gate price for Adult is \$40; Child is \$35; MWR is \$32. Two years and under free admission.

Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX Theatre

Leisure Travel is selling Platinum Supersaver Prepaid Admission Tickets to Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX theatre (formally 53rd cinemas and RAVE cinemas) These tickets have no restrictions or expiration date.

Child, Youth & School Services



Covenant Cottage Child Development Home

Covenant Cottage Child Development Home is available for backup, emergency, and hourly care for ages four weeks through 12 years. The home is located on post and is open from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Army Family Covenant Guidelines state deployed Soldiers are entitled to 16 hours free respite childcare per child, per month. For reservations call 309-782-6793. We encourage you to call as far in advance as possible because spaces fill quickly.



Army Community Service



ACS is located in Bldg. 110, 1st floor SE; [Visit our ACS website](#) or phone 309-782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. [Find us on Facebook click here](#). 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: **309-229-8412**.

The Behavior Doctor

Join us Thursday, **May 21**, in the Abel Conf. Rm., 1st Floor, Bldg. 110, for what will possibly be the best parenting information session you will ever attend. Dr. Laura Riffel is a nationally acclaimed speaker educating parents and professionals on effective parenting and communication strategies. Dr. Riffel will present for two different sessions, one on general parenting taking place 3:30-5 p.m.; and the other on positive interventions and strategies for parent of children with special needs taking place 6-7:30 p.m. ([Flyer](#))

Overseas Orientation Briefing

Are you on orders to PCS out of the country? If so make sure to attend the Overseas Orientation Briefing held on the first Tuesday of every month and learn specifics and tips about your new duty location. The session will take place **May 5**, 9:30-11 a.m., in ACS (Bldg. 110). Call to RSVP: 309-782-0829. Individual relocation counseling is also available by appointment, call 309-782-0829 to schedule your appointment. ([Flyer](#))

Advanced Résumé Class

There will be an Advanced Résumé Class (with emphasis on federal employment) held on Friday, **May 8**, in Bldg. 103, 1:30-3:30 p.m., in the Baylor Conf. Rm. The class is open to all service members, spouses, and their family members, DA civilians (APF & NAF) and their family members, and Retiree's and their family members. Those who are interested must RSVP NLT **May 1** at 309-782-0829 or by email to usarmy.RIA.imcom-central.mbx.usag-acs@mail.mil. There is a minimum of 10 RSVP's or class will be rescheduled. ([Flyer](#))

Hearts Apart Support Group

Hearts Apart Program is part of the Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program for spouses of service members and Department of Defense civilians and who are separated because of military commitments (deployments, temporary duties, remote tours). Services offered include on-base and off-base resource information, personal support and group activities. The next group session will take place Friday, **May 15**, 10-11 a.m., in ACS (Bldg. 110). If you would like to receive the latest information on the Hearts Apart Program, contact Ann Wood, relocation program manager, 309-782-0816. ([Flyer](#))

Employee Assistance Program



ASAP/EAP is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor; visit our [ASAP/EAP website](#) or phone 309-782-4357 or 309-782-HELP. Office hours are from 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After Hour Emergencies: 309-782-6116. Rock Island Arsenal Emergency Services will contact an EAP counselor who will call you back promptly. [Find us on Facebook click here.](#)

Children's Mental Health Awareness

Suicide among youth is a reality, and it is more common than we might think. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year olds, claiming more lives than any single disease or condition.

Fortunately, the emotional crises that so often precede suicides are both recognizable and treatable, and good prevention tools can help parents identify a problem before it's too late. In honor of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, **May 3-9**, the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program invites you to take advantage of the free and confidential counseling services that the program has to offer.

Schedule an appointment with an EAP counselor by calling 309-782-4357. Master-level counselors can provide information, short-term counseling, and referral services. The teenage years can be tumultuous – new relationships, decisions about the future, and even physical changes can be difficult to handle. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, talk it over with a trained professional at the EAP. Warning signs of suicide: Call 9-1-1 or seek immediate help from a mental health provider if you notice the following:

- Someone threatening to hurt or kill him/herself, or talking of wanting to hurt or kill him/herself;
- Someone looking for ways to kill him/herself by seeking access to firearms, available pills, or other means.

Seek help by contacting a mental health professional or calling 1-800-273-TALK for a referral should you notice anyone exhibiting one or more of the following:

- Hopelessness;
- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge;
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities, seemingly without thinking;
- Feeling trapped - like there's no way out;
- Increased alcohol or drug use;
- Withdrawing from friends, family and society;
- Anxiety, agitation, inability to sleep or sleeping all the time;
- Dramatic mood change;
- Excessive interest, talk, or writings focused on death, dying or suicide; and
- No reason for living; no sense of purpose in life.



Education/Training Review



The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor, west end of the building. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: 309-782-2065 Fax: 309-782-7901. [Please visit our website to learn more.](#)

Save the Date for Annual Commencement Recognition Ceremony

Save the Date! ACES Rock Island Education Center will once again host its annual Commencement Recognition Ceremony on **Sept. 1**. All Soldiers that have earned a degree this fiscal year, are encouraged to contact our office to ensure that you will be recognized for your outstanding achievement at 309-782-2065.

St. Ambrose University Lunch and Learn

St. Ambrose is hosting informative lunch-n-learn sessions to learn how you can take advantage of special tuition rates available for MBA students. In support of our military and civilian personnel on the Arsenal, SAU offers special pricing at a fraction of the regular tuition rate for MBA students. The event will take place **June 11** in Bldg. 56, Room 116, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., or 12-1 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. Priority will be given to military personnel. RSVP NLT **June 9** to reserve your seat. Call 563-333-6170 or leonardmichelem@sau.edu. The Garrison POC is [Michelle Beck](#), at 309-782-0965.

Area Schools to Visit RIA

The [Army Continuing Education Systems Rock Island Arsenal](#) is coordinating with Quad-City area schools to have them visit with eligible Ed Center patrons where they will meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities. These visits will take place in Bldg. 56, Room 121, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The schedule for this fiscal year is: • Ashford University, **July 23**; • Black Hawk College, **July 9**; • Eastern Iowa Community College, **May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3**; • Kaplan University, **May 14, and Aug. 13**; • Saint Ambrose University, **July 16**; • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences, **May 21 and Aug. 20**; • Upper Iowa University, **May 13, and Aug. 12**.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The [Rock Island Commissary](#) and the [Exchange](#) are for active duty military and retirees only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. The Commissary makes fresh fruit baskets daily for you! Shopping for someone who has everything? Problem solved. They are hungry for fresh fruit. Just buy them a fruit basket and relax. Ask our friendly staff to make you one or order one in advance. Check out local specials and get POC information [HERE](#). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com ([Facebook](#))

Spring Customer Appreciation Case Lot Sale

Commissary Customer Appreciation Case Lot Sales will be held at most commissaries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico for 1-4 days from April 16 to June 28. The dates for the Rock Island Arsenal Commissary are **May 15-16**. You deserve the very best! ([More](#))

Exchange Opens Earlier, Serves Breakfast

The Exchange located on Rock Island Arsenal began opening at 7 a.m. Oct. 1. Also effective Oct. 1, the Exchange began featuring heat-and-eat breakfast items at the front of the store. "We will be running these hours for two months to make sure that there will be demand to be open at 7 a.m.," said Carl Wolfe, store manager, Rock Island Exchange. "We are really hoping with the Exchange having an entire new 'Heat and Eat,' that we will cater to the Soldiers coming on the Island in the morning and we know a lot of them have PT in the mornings and this will give them a chance to grab something before they go in the office for the day." The new open-to-close store hours are 7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The "Heat and Eat" items being sold in the mornings will include: Breakfast Tornados, Breakfast Deli Express sandwiches, Cappuccino, and coffee, Roller Bites, and Breakfast Style Pizza. The Exchange will also have a lunch menu to include: Tornado's, Deli Express hot and cold sandwiches, hot dogs, Polish sausage, jalapeno sausage, Roller Bites, egg rolls, and pizza. In addition, the Exchange will also have microwavable meals, soup, and Asian noodles for sale all day long.



Arsenal Archive



Information for the Arsenal Archive is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The Museum is open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Admission is free. ([website](#))

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Meeting

The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society will have its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, **May 7**, in the Veranda Room of the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu for dinner is lemon ranch salad, fresh grilled salmon filet with citrus compound butter, wild rice, steamed cauliflower and panna cotta with strawberry coulis. All dinners include rolls, breadsticks, coffee, tea and water. The total cost is \$14 per person including tax and tip. Our event is open to both members and non-members. Interested parties may choose to attend only the program portion of the meeting at 7 p.m. at no cost. Guest Speaker will be Maryan Wherry, PhD, American Culture Studies. Her presentation is titled: Margaret, Susan and Marguerite: Founding Mothers. It is adapted from chapters of Quad Cities' Herstories, an anthology of 20 biographies of influential area women. For reservations call Monica at 563-650-4349 or Linda at 563-355-6165 or email chiicaliinda@aol.com. Reservations are due by noon on Monday, **May 4**. Cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for cost incurred and billed accordingly. If further clarification is required on this notice, please call Kris Leinicke at 309-782-3518. Visit the RIA Historical Society's website at www.arsenalhistoricalsociety/org.

Learn About Civil War Prison Camp on Arsenal Island

Learn about the Civil War prison camp that used to be located on the Arsenal Island. The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation is hosting this program and lunch on Sunday, **May 17**, at 1 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse. Kris Leinicke, Rock Island Arsenal Museum Director, will give an overview of the history of the Rock Island Barracks, 1863-1865. The presentation is primarily illustrated with photographs and images from the time period. Included are stereoview images and two John Gisch paintings in the collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. ([More](#))

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – April 27-May 3

On April 29, 1931, construction of the locks on Locks and Dam 15 began. On May 1, 1870, ground breaking on the RIA Commanding Officer's Quarters known as Quarters One began. In May 1874, the guard house building at the main gate entrance on the western portion of the Island was completed. In May 1962, the RIA established a Tool and Equipment Division. The tool and equipment engineering activities were removed from the RI Ordnance Depot. On May 4, 1836, the U.S. Army troops garrisoned at Fort Armstrong evacuated the post. The RIA received an order on May 5, 1898, two weeks after the U.S. declared war on Spain, for 54,000 outfits of infantry equipment, 5,000 outfits of cavalry accouterments, and 5,000 sets of horse equipment.



Important Changes in Pharmacy Hours

- **May 7:** Pharmacist will be on duty beginning at 9 a.m.
- **May 20:** Pharmacist will be on duty until 3 p.m. (if prescriptions are brought in after 3 p.m. you will need to return the following day to pick them up)
- **May 26:** We will not have a pharmacist on duty, we will not fill outside prescriptions, only prescriptions filled will be for patients seen in the clinic that day for acute conditions, routine refills for patients seen in the clinic will not be dispensed.

Please bear with us while we work through a pharmacist shortage. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Sgt. First Class Robinson-Wilson at 309-782-0989 or 309-782-0943, or you may call Capt. Converse at 309-782-0865.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

There are a number of causes of hearing loss. Some of them involve temporary loss that can be treated with medication or surgery. Others are permanent and not treatable with medication or surgery but may be mitigated with amplification (hearing aids). The most common type of hearing loss in the military is noise-induced hearing loss, or NIHL. NIHL is a permanent type referred to as sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). SNHL is due to damage to microscopic nerve cells in the cochlea, the end organ of hearing. NIHL is painless, progressive, permanent and preventable. Exposure to steady noise above damage criteria (85 decibels) over a period of years can lead to NIHL. Weapons fire is referred to as impulse noise. Exposure to impulse noise above damage criteria (140 peak decibels) can cause sudden permanent SNHL. This means that firing a few rounds on a range without hearing protection can cause permanent hearing loss. ([More](#))

Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health is an important factor in the readiness of the Army. It encompasses psychological, physical and spiritual wellbeing, and can impact each of these aspects regardless of age, race, religion, or income. According to a February 2015 review of Army data systems, Defense Manpower Data Center, and Defense Medical Surveillance System 7.4 percent of the Soldiers who have ever deployed Oct. 7, 2001 to Feb. 1, 2015, received a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. Data from the U.S. Transportation Command and U.S. Transportation Regulating and Command and Control Evacuation System indicates that, since October 2001, 2,959 Soldiers have required air medical transport out-of-theater (Operation Enduring Freedom) for PTSD or other BH issues, sole condition or comorbidity. Between March 2003 and December 2011, 5,320 Soldiers were evacuated out-of-theater from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. The Army offers an array of BH services in garrison and operational environments to address the strain on Soldiers and Families who have experienced multiple deployments and other demands of military life. Services include: theater combat and operational stress control, routine behavioral healthcare, periodic assessments, and suicide prevention programs. Tele-behavioral health services are offered in 51 countries/territories across 19 time zones, allowing Soldiers and Family members in remote locations the ability to link to BH providers at different locations. ([More](#))



VA Expands Choice Program Eligibility, Effective Immediately

In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will determine eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program based on the distance between a Veteran's place of residence and the nearest VA medical facility using driving distance rather than straight-line distance. This change has been published in the Federal Register and is effective immediately. "VA is pleased to announce the distance calculation change from straight-line to driving distance for the Veterans Choice Program," said Secretary Robert McDonald. "This update to the program will allow more Veterans to access care when and where they want it. We look forward to continued dialogue with Veterans and our partners to help us ensure continued improvements for Veterans' to access care." ([More](#))

Group of Respected Medical Experts to Advise VA on Health Care for 9 Million Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a new 11-member Special Medical Advisory Group (SMAG) composed of leading medical experts to assist the Department in delivering health care to the 9 million Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration. The SMAG is a reconstituted federally-chartered committee that advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Under Secretary for Health, on matters related to health care delivery, research, education, training of health care staff and planning on shared care issues facing VA and the Department of Defense. "We want the best of the best to work on behalf of our nation's Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "We are honored these respected leaders from the private, non-profit and government sectors have agreed to join in our mission improve how we provide the quality health care our nation's Veterans need and deserve." ([More](#))

Online Course Helps Healthcare Professionals Better Serve Veterans and Servicemembers

The departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Defense (DoD) have announced the launch of an online continuing education course aimed at helping health care professionals better treat Veterans and Servicemembers. The free course, Military Culture: Core Competencies for Health Care Professionals, is being offered to community health care providers nationwide through the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Training Finder Real-time Affiliated Integrated Network (TRAIN), which launched earlier this month. VHA TRAIN is part of TRAIN National, a comprehensive catalog of public health learning products. "A key initiative for VHA is to advance health care innovation for Veterans and the country," said Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health. "The availability of VHA TRAIN as a platform to share VHA's knowledge and expertise is an important milestone in achieving that goal. The Military Culture Competency Training and other courses available thru VHA TRAIN will help ensure Veteran's receive high quality health care whether it is from VA or a provider in the community." ([More](#))

VA Research Commemorates 90 Years of Health Care Innovation Focused on Improving Veterans' Lives

The Department of Veterans Affairs will highlight 90 years of improving the lives of Veterans and other Americans through medical and prosthetics research when it celebrates National VA Research Week May 18–22, 2015, at host medical facilities across the United States and its territories. "VA Research and Development plays a pivotal role in improving the health of Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "In addition, the advances in health care developed by VA have benefited millions of other Americans and patients worldwide." ([More](#))



Around the Q.C.

C

- May 2:** [Festival of the Arts' Village in Bloom](#) (Village of East Davenport)
- May 2:** [Pacquiao vs Mayweather Fight Watch Event](#) (Golden Leaf, Davenport)
- May 4-10:** [Navy Week Quad Cities](#) (Quad City Area)
- May 9-10:** [29th Quad City Air Show, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels](#) (Davenport Municipal Airport)
- May 9-10:** [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Figue Art Museum Plaza, Downtown Davenport)
- May 10-11:** [Scott County Kennel Club AKC Dog Show](#) (QCCA)
- May 15:** [Jason's Box REDSwhite&blue Charity Golf Tournament](#) (Golfmohr Golf Club, East Moline)
- May 16:** [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
- May 16:** [2nd Annual Live Fit With Lupus Run](#) (Black Watch Room, Pebble Creek Golf Course, LeClaire, Iowa)
- May 22-31:** [Historic Homes & Gardens of the Scottish Highlands](#) (QC Botanical Center, Rock Island)
- May 25:** [50th Annual Quad Cities Criterium](#) (Village of East Davenport)
- June 1-6:** [25th Annual Quad Cities Senior Olympics](#) (1800 3rd Ave, Rock Island)
- June 3, 4:** U.S. Army & NDIA Small Business/APBI Symposium (iWireless Center)
- June 5-6:** [Rhubarb Festival](#) (Aledo, Ill.)
- June 6:** [QC Pridefest](#) (Downtown Davenport)
- June 12-13:** [Gumbo Ya Ya](#) (The District, Rock Island)
- June 13:** [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In Carshow](#) (4-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
- June 13-21:** [Quad Cities Museum Week](#) (Greater Quad Cities)
- June 15:** [YSB-Whitey Verstraete Memorial Golf Outing](#) (Pinnacle Country Club, Milan, Ill.)
- June 17-20:** [Rally on the River](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
- June 20:** [2nd Annual Micro Brew Mile & 6K Road Race](#) (Moline)

June 21: [Ride the River Bike Ride](#) (Mississippi River bike paths, Iowa & Illinois)
June 28: [Blossoms at Butterworth](#) (Butterworth Center, Deere family homes, Moline)
July 3: [Red, White & Boom!](#) (The District, Rock Island & Downtown Davenport)
July 4: [Firecracker Run & Parade](#) (Run starts at 7:30 a.m. with the parade at 1 p.m., East Moline)
July 4: [Bettendorf Old-Fashioned 4th of July](#) (parade at 10 a.m.)
July 6-12: [John Deere Classic PGA TOUR](#) (TPC Deere Run golf course, Silvis, Ill.)
July 9-11: [Walcott Truckers Jamboree](#) (Iowa 80 Truckstop, Walcott, Iowa)
July 11: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
July 15-19: [Rock Island County Fair](#) (Fairgrounds, East Moline)
July 17: [Rock Island Arsenal Chapter AUSA Annual Golf Outing](#) (Arsenal Island Golf Course)
July 24-25: [Downtown Street Fest](#) (2nd Street in downtown Davenport)
July 25: [Bix 7 Run/Walk](#) (Downtown Davenport)
July 30-Aug. 2: [Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival](#) (RiverCenter/Adler Theatre, Davenport)
Aug. 4-9: [Great Mississippi Valley Fair](#) (Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport)
Aug. 6: [Freedom Run 5k](#) (Moline)
Aug. 7-8: [Ya Maka My Weekend](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Aug. 8: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
Aug. 13-15: [Tug Fest](#) (LeClaire, Iowa & Port Byron, Ill.)
Aug. 15: [Floatzilla](#) (Sunset Marina, Rock Island)
Aug. 28-29: [River Roots Live](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Aug. 28-30: [World Series of Dragracing](#) (Cordova Dragway, Cordova, Ill.)
Sept. 4-7: [Mississippi Valley Blues Festival](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
Sept. 5-6: [Rock Island Grand Prix](#) (Downtown Rock Island)
Sept. 5-7: [Labor Day Weekend Pow Wow](#) (Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island)
Sept. 12: [Quad City Symphony Riverfront Pops](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
Sept. 12: [QCA Heritage Tractor Parade & Show](#) (John Deere Pavilion, Moline)
Sept. 12: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
Sept. 12-13: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Sept. 18-19: [Celtic Festival & Highland Games](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19: [Brew Ha Ha](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19-20: [Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Sept. 27: [Quad Cities Marathon](#) (downtown Moline)
Sept. 25-27: [Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) (Kennedy Square, East Moline)
Oct. 10: [Trinity Quad Cities Classic Regatta](#) (Mississippi River in Moline)
Oct. 10: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (3-6 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimberly Road)
Oct. 11: [Apple Fest](#) (Downtown LeClaire, Iowa)
Oct. 29: [Fright Night](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Oct. 24: [Lagomarcino's Cocoa Beano 5K Race](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Nov. 20-29: [Quad City Arts Festival of Trees](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Festival of Trees Parade](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Lighting on the John Deere Commons](#) (Downtown Moline)
Dec. 4-6: [Heartland Emergency Response Conference Expo](#) (QCCA)

Island Insight



Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., Garrison Commander; Eric Cramer, Public Affairs Officer; Mark Kane, Editor

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